

Newton - K - Willows, (Lancashire)

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Chairman of the Urban District Council.

12th February, 1896.

SIR,

I have the honour to present my Report for the year 1895.

There were Registered—

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTALS.
Births	257	214	471
Deaths	109	105	214
Excess of Births ...	148	109	257

The birth rate was 36·5, and the death rate 15·3 per thousand of the estimated population. The infantile death rate (*i.e.*, the deaths of infants under one year, in proportion to the births in the year), was 14·8 per cent. The zymotic death rate was 2·8 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

Annexed are tables “A” and “B.” “A” is a table of deaths during the year, classified according to diseases and ages; “B” is a table of population, births, and new cases of infectious sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year, classified according to diseases and ages.

Below is a condensed statement of these tables:—

I.—AGES.						
At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1—5.	5—15.	15—25.	25—65.	65 and up.
214	70	48	7	10	56	23

TABLE “A.” II.—DISEASES.

	Under 5.	5 upwards.	TOTAL.
Membranous Croup	1	—	1
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ...	—	1	1
Puerperal Fever	—	1	1
Erysipelas	—	1	1
Measles... ..	6	—	6
Whooping Cough... ..	10	—	10
Diarrhœa and Dysentery ...	19	1	20
Phthisis	1	8	9
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	26	23	49
Heart Disease	—	17	17
Injuries... ..	2	9	11
All other diseases... ..	53	35	88
TOTAL	118	96	214

TABLE “B.” NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS
(NOTIFIED).

	Under 5.	5 upwards.	TOTAL.
Scarlatina	8	17	25
Diphtheria	3	7	10
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ...	3	6	9
Puerperal Fever	—	1	1
Erysipelas	—	7	7
TOTAL	14	38	52

Distribution of the notified cases of infectious sickness:—

	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Enteric.	Puerperal.	Erysipelas.	TOTALS.
Town Hall Ward...	2	—	5	—	—	7
Viaduct Ward ...	10	3	3	1	4	21
Wargrave Ward ...	1	2	—	—	2	5
Crow Lane Ward...	2	3	—	—	1	6
Newton Ward ...	10	3	—	—	—	13
Total	25	18	8	1	7	59

Pollution of Newton Lake.—This has been diminished by the measures taken by the Ashton, Golborne, and Newton Sanitary Authorities, but still the affluent stream at Golborne Dale leaves very much to be desired, and contrasts greatly with the affluent flowing through Golborne Hollows at the West end of the Lake.

Infectious Diseases.—Of the 52 cases notified 10 (9 Scarlatina and 1 Enteric Fever) were removed to the Isolation Hospital. None died.

The objections to isolation are certainly declining, but I have again to repeat that our medical practitioners ought to make it more available for the benefit of their patients and the community.

I believe that 1895 would have been a remarkably healthy year but for the incidence of the three non-notifiable diseases—Summer Diarrhœa, Whooping-Cough, and Measles. We know not how many cases of sickness the 35 deaths of children from those diseases represent. Your bye-laws may be ideally perfect, your sanitary appliances and operations all up to date, but your control over preventible disease will be crippled, if not annulled, till the public is convinced that their co-operation is necessary to the common weal.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN W. WATKINS.

A correct copy
J. W. Watkins

(M. Edm. R.)

